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**SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES \$30,000
IN FUNDING FROM LONG ISLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT STEM INITIATIVES**

Selden, NY – Suffolk County Community College announced today that it has received a grant for \$30,000 from the Long Island Community Foundation (LICF). This funding will enable the College to provide additional support to improve educational outcomes for students studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). This support, in the form of intensive tutoring and opportunities to attend regional conferences, will reduce barriers that result in achievement gaps and will increase the number and scope of STEM opportunities.

“This provision of \$30,000 of LICF funding, specific to support services beyond the scope of the College’s existing grant-funded programs, will strengthen the capacity for academically talented, financially needy STEM scholars to complete their associate degrees,” said Dr. Shaun L. McKay, President of Suffolk County Community College. “The College will build upon its strong NSF S-STEM and CSTEP grant-funded programs to sponsor mentoring seminars, and intensive tutoring to increase our STEM scholars’ ability to achieve their educational and career goals.”

In her grant proposal, *Removing Barriers and Strengthening STEM Capacity at Suffolk County Community College*, Dr. Candice J. Foley, Principal Investigator and Chair of SCCC’s National Science Foundation Scholarships for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics program notes that there are currently more than 3 million unfilled STEM jobs in the United States due to a lack of qualified applicants. With the changing demographics in the United States, unfilled STEM jobs translate into opportunities for many aspiring students. The success of SCCC’s STEM program has been demonstrated by the significantly higher retention, graduation, and transfer rates of NSF scholars, when compared to rates for other STEM students. This success is due in large part to the College’s existing student supports and community building efforts. There is also growing evidence nationwide that a strong STEM education increases student success in competing for the highest quality jobs in these fields. STEM-related jobs are growing at twice the rate of the rest of the economy and the gender wage gap is smaller in STEM jobs than in non-STEM jobs. STEM workers are weathering the current unemployment crisis far better than their counterparts in other fields.

About Suffolk County Community College

Suffolk County Community College (SCCC) is the largest community college in the State University of New York (SUNY) system, enrolling approximately 26,000 students at its three campuses in Selden, Brentwood and Riverhead. SCCC offers the Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.), and Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) degrees, as well as a variety of certificate programs. Offering affordable college tuition, a highly respected Honors program, extensive extracurricular activities, championship athletic teams, and numerous transfer programs, SCCC is a first-choice college for Long Island students. Visit us online at sunysuffolk.edu.

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